

T.R.I.P.P. #2008-03



Comments? The periodic T.R.I.P.P. (Travel Regulations, Information, Policies, and Procedures) reports have been reinstituted to bring to your attention changes in travel policies or regulations. Comments about current topics or suggestions about future topics in the T.R.I.P.P. should be forwarded to Emily Guffey at 865-576-9513 or e-mail at guffeye@oro.doe.gov.

✓ AIRFARE INCREASES DUE TO FUEL SURCHARGES

The one constant topic these days is the continual increase in gas prices. This has also affected the cost of airline tickets. In the past, when a trip was booked, there was not a change in the cost when the trip was ticketed. In these days of skyrocketing fuel prices, there are ever increasing fuel surcharges. Therefore, between the day the trip is booked and the day it is ticketed, the costs can change dramatically. Ticket prices are not set until the date the trip is ticketed and charged to the government credit card.

The only way to avoid this increase is to ticket early. If trips are ticketed when they are booked, one must weigh the chance fuel costs will increase vs. the likelihood that the trip will be cancelled. If cancelled, the \$12.80 TMC fee for use of Holiday's services will be assessed. Considering the fact that the increase in the ticket will most likely be greater than the \$12.80 fee, it is recommended that airfares be ticketed as soon as the travel authorization is approved. This should help us stretch our travel funds further.

✓ NEW AIRLINE CHARGES FOR BAGGAGE:

American Airlines has announced that they will be charging \$12.00 for the first checked bag, and \$25.00 for the second checked bag, beginning June 15th. Please be aware that government employees are exempt from this, but only if they are flying at the government rate. Be sure to tell the airline employees that you are a government traveler if they attempt to charge you for your bags. Expect similar charges to be announced by other major airlines.

